Water wheel Turbine

*477. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Economic Times, Delhi Edition, dated 12th March, 2000, under the caption "pump up the Volume" regarding the invention of a water wheel turbine that runs without fuel or electricity, by a UP farmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to help this inventor to start commercial production of this water wheel turbine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A water wheel turbine has been developed by Shri Mangal Singh a farmer of village Bhailonilodh from district Lalitpur (UP). He also sought financial assistance from the Council for Advancement of Peoples' Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) under the Ministry of Rural Area & Employment, Govt. of India. The Water Wheel Turbine operates centrifugal pump(s), which can lift upto about 36 litres of water per second at 6.5 cm delivery head utilizing the hydrostatic energy of water by creating 1.8 meter water head using simple check dam in a flowing river or nala. The water current created pushes the paddles of the water wheel and rotates the wheel around its shaft, thus generating mechanical power which is utilised to operate centrifugal pump(s).

On the request of CAPART this water wheel turbine pump was inspected and assessed by the Scientists of Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal during 1987 and in 1989. The performance of the pump was found to be satisfactory although further refinements in the pump were recommended. It is learnt that Shri Mangal Singh has since obtained a patent of his water wheel turbine pump. It has been presented to International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) of Untied Nations in Rome who estimated system cost about Rs. 5.0 lakhs (at the price level of 1998). Shri Mangal Singh wants that these be manufactured and installed for the benefit of the farmers.

(c) Since Shri Mangal Singh has already taken a patent on his invention, he may get the pump manufactured by some manufacturers for commercialisation, utilising the funds available from financial Institutions/ Banks for such help.

(d) Not applicable.

Minimum procurement price

*478. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for enhancement of minimum procurement price for the farmers for different commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, commodity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) as per the existing price policy for agricultural commodities, the Governemnt announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities. The prices are duly fixed after taking into account the increases in the cost of cultivation over the period and other relevant factors so as to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

Central assistance for Damaged Coconut Plantations

*479. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Andhra Pradesh has requested to release Central assistance of Rs. 40 crores to provide relief for damaged coconut plantations and restore the works damaged by severe cyclonic storm on 17th October, 1999 in Srikakulam District; and

(b) if so, by when the funds for relief to farmers of Srikakulam District will be released?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) Yes, Sir.